



# EMC News

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## **ADOPT A HIGHWAY**

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*

Five EMC members met on September 15 at Warren Road, the first rainy Sunday in 10 weeks. Roger had crafted some wonderful pickup sticks. What a beautiful stretch of highway, what a lot of trash. We were able to get half of our section cleaned before fatigue and sweat and rain got the better of us.

At our next meeting we will make plans to complete the process. The first lesson we learned is that it takes 8 people to do the job.

## **ENERGY COMMITTEE**

*Submitted by Kenny Christianson*

- The final New York State Energy Plan has been published. It included comments from the Energy Committee, which seem to have had some positive effects on the final version.
- The library will be the starting point for the Solar Buildings Tour on October 5. The Energy Committee will help to staff the table at the library from 10:00 - 2:00.
- The Board of Representatives approved a target for emissions reductions on August 6. This is Milestone 2 in the ICLEI process. The county has contracted with Taitem Engineering and Performance Systems Development, through NYSERDA, to explore ways of reducing energy use in county buildings. The Energy Committee will focus on reducing fleet emissions for now. This is all part of the process of developing a Local Action Plan, Milestone 3.
- The committee recommended not to sell Green Tags from the library solar panels to Powerlight. If we did so, the county would not

be able to claim the environmental benefits of the library solar panels.

- The next meeting will be on October 28 at 12:30 in the Old Jail small conference room.

## **AD HOC HUDSON RIVER**

### **PCB DISPOSAL COMMITTEE**

*Submitted by Joyce Gerbasi and Carolyn Shapiro*

The ad hoc committee studying placement and/or other treatment of the PCBs and sediment from the Hudson River met and discussed the issue of potential disposal of some portion of the 4,000,000 tons of PCB contaminated waste in the Buffalo/Niagara region.

During this discussion we were made aware of a related and more immediate problem we would like to respond to. The DEC has put out a policy, as required by the EPA, dealing with environmental justice. The original guidelines emphasized the need to protect minority and low-income communities. Unfortunately, the proposed DEC policy limits the protection from "disproportionate adverse environmental impacts" to those two specific types of communities, and has designed a regulatory framework to identify only them.

As communities in NYS have already been disproportionately impacted, such as the Niagara Falls area, we wish to send a letter of comment (due by 10/11) on the policy, asking that the areas that have been impacted by a disproportionately high concentration of toxic waste disposal sites also be given protection in the environmental justice policy, and that a framework to identify and characterize them also be devised. The letter is still being worked on, but will be ready for the EMC to vote on it on 10/9. The draft policy, Environmental Justice and DEC Permitting, can

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be found on the DEC website at  
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ej/index.html>.

The ad hoc committee will continue to work on a response to the Buffalo/Niagara EMC's request in the context of the Hudson River PCB disposal. In addition to our concern regarding environmental justice issues, we are wrestling with issues regarding the long history of non-compliance and lack of enforcement at the Chemical Waste Management site in the Niagara area, as well as the Record of Decision for the Hudson River PCBs that ultimately mandates off-site disposal of all contaminated media in lieu of on-site treatment.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

*Submitted by Steve Uzmans*

We would like all interested parties to know that Tompkins County has finalized its Generic Oil and Gas Leases. There are two basic versions, one for when the landowner is agreeable to "surface occupancy" which might include hosting a drill site or other disturbances of their land. The second version, the "no surface occupancy" lease, is for when the owner wishes to lease the mineral rights to the gas producer, but does not want any gas exploration/production construction on their property. The ERC submitted numerous recommendations to the County on the content of these leases, many of which we are pleased to say have been incorporated. We recommend that any individuals or agencies who have an interest in gas leasing to contact the TC Planning Dept. and review copies of these generic leases.

The Committee met on September 24, 2002. We discussed the Cornell West Campus Residential Initiative DEIS. Mr. Gary Stewart from Cornell attended our meeting. We will submit comments on the DEIS by Friday, October 4. Other topics included the Cornell Lake Source Cooling permit

renewal, the SEQRA Type 1 Actions review and the Snowmobile Trails Grant.

#### **MUNICIPAL REPORTS**

##### **Town of Ulysses**

*Submitted by Christian Boissonnas*

Water news continues to dominate the environmental management agenda of the Town of Ulysses. Water District No. 3--which includes the gasoline pollution-affected area in Jacksonville--is now two steps closer to providing water. In the first step, last week the Town of Ithaca Board of Zoning Appeals granted Ulysses the variance necessary to build the water system's pumping station on Wolf Lane in the Town of Ithaca. The purpose of this station is to boost the water pressure for the district, but also for the Town of Ithaca residences on West Hill which now have marginal pressure. The second step, which has just started, involves the judicial resolution of a covenant of several homeowners in the area of the new pumping station. Construction for the project is expected to start as early in 2003 as winter will allow.

Related to Water District No. 3 are negotiations between the Town of Ulysses and the Village of Trumansburg to extend the district and provide Trumansburg with an additional source of water. The district would be extended beyond its end on Cold Springs Road to bring water to Trumansburg via South Street Extension.

Municipal water will have a major impact on the residences affected, and homeowners need to plan for it. To this end the Jacksonville Community Association is planning a program for residents so that they can learn what to watch for, given their plumbing systems, how to connect, and what to do with their existing wells. This program will be offered in winter.

##### **Town of Ithaca – no report submitted**

***Look for Municipal Reports in the November EMC News from the Towns of Lansing and Newfield and the Village of Cayuga Heights.***

See you at the next meeting  
**Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

